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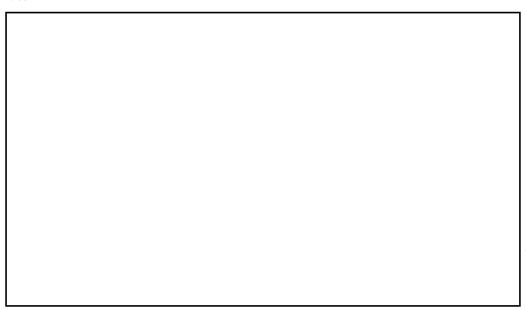
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PANAMA: The week-long UN Security Council meeting that opens today in Panama City will not produce any strong or lasting international backing for Panama's position on the canal, but General Torrijos believes the meeting will fulfill its main purpose of focusing world, and especially US, attention on Panama's aspirations.

Panama's expectations for the outcome of the first two days of general debate have been toned down. Of the Latin American delegates, only Peru and Cuba will adopt a strong anti-US stance. While the Panamanians earlier had hoped to achieve a formal Security Council "declaration," the Council's president--Panama's Aquilino Boyd--now seems resigned to settling for a mildly worded summary of debate.

Panama also believes that compromises will have to be accepted on other Latin American items that will be discussed during the remainder of the meeting. Panama and Peru reportedly are working on a position paper that will take a tough line on a number of issues of interest to the United States.



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